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Early Learning Council-Planning for Next Steps
January 27, 2006

Vision: to create a sustainable, integrated and accessible early learning system that provides parents, families, caregivers and communities in Washington State with the information, support and services they need to ensure that every child is prepared from birth to success in school and life.

Tasks	Questions/Issues to be Addressed	Approach (e.g. full ELC, TAC, small group time)
Benchmark Redesign	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure that benchmarks respond to the diverse needs of children and families in communities throughout the state• Changes in existing EL programs and services to ensure content is aligned with what children need to know and be able to do upon entering school (HB 1152)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter from Gov and OSPI (signed)• Establish new leadership group• Select contractor to oversee process based on preliminary work of leadership group
QRIS/Tiered Reimbursement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Refine design• Develop weighting system for elements• Elaborate on incentives and tiered reimbursement• Quality assurance measures & mechanism for system evaluation• Implementation including: potential implementing entities; sources of funding; infrastructure; strategies for raising public awareness of the system• As appropriate, Policy Option Specification recommendations to the ELC• Stakeholder outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing technical advisory committee• Expert review and consultation on work completed so far (contracts with Anne Mitchell and Kathy Modigliani); meeting with Kathy regarding family child care on February 8th in Olympia• Hire contractor to refine categories and elements for TAC and ELC review• Final design presented to ELC July 2006
Public-Private Partnership (PPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationship between the PPP and the proposed department, board composition and other PPP issues raised during the 12/7/05 ELC meeting• Selection of intermediary organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regina Jones, Rep. Kagi and Greg Shaw volunteered to begin work on specifics related to the PPP• MOU signed by 10 founding partners on 1/17/06 (within 120 days, Washington Early Learning Fund will be formed and a budget and finance plan for jointly investing in two pilot communities will be finalized)• Intermediary organization to administer the PPP and WELF to be selected
Cabinet-Level Early Learning Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination with K-12 (including transitions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HB 2964/SB 6466 require creation of department

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Tasks	Questions/Issues to be Addressed	Approach (e.g. full ELC, TAC, small group time)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with programs not included in new agency • Support to local community partnerships • Relationship between the department and the PPP • Internal governance of the department (at the termination of the ELC) • Transition of any additional programs and responsibilities 	<p>July 1, 2006; department, in collaboration with the ELC, required to prepare a report and make recommendations to the Governor and legislature by November 15, 2006</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills passed out of committee of origin on 1/25/06 and move to Ways and Means and Appropriations
Statewide Public Engagement		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop media packet (including talking points) that can be used by ELC members in presenting and listening in their communities • PPP role—focus groups in February 2006

Early Learning Plan (HB 1152)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assuring Access to High Quality Early Learning for Washington's Young Children (Access Study) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Populations served/to be served (HB 1152) • State's role in supporting quality EL programs and services (HB 1152) • Appropriate levels and sources to meet statewide and local need for programs and services including public-private partnerships (HB 1152) • Key conceptual issues to be considered include: universal access vs. uniform delivery; fee vs. free; when does learning start; schooling vs. developmental approaches; designing a program vs. shaping a market/ • Study will involve two rounds of policy option specifications (ratios, staff credentials, professional development, salaries, other services, non-personnel expenses, regulation, governance and administration, financial assistance policies) and analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract with the University of Washington for the study (funded with public and private funds). • Overview of study at January ELC meeting; February WL Steering Committee. • Round I policy option specifications to be developed by expanded ELC through full group discussions, small groups, and the QRIS TAC (to be completed by the end of March). • Round I analysis presented to ELC by the end of June. • Round II analysis to ELC by end of August. • Round II analysis to the WL Steering Committee September 2006.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in existing EL programs and services including administration to improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there changes in licensing or subsidy policy that might improve efficiency, effectiveness and quality of care for children (and continuity of care)? • How to maximize available EL resources to ensure children receive continuity of care (HB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small group work during ELC meetings? • Defer to April 2006; recommendations to ELC by August 2006. • As TACs work on other topics, make sure to track related issues/recommendations about ways to improve EL programs and services

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing smooth transitions from EL to K-12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How do we ensure smooth transitions for children between early learning and K-12 (HB 1152)/services for school-age children?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• During February ELC meeting, Sup. Terry Bergeson and representatives from the K-12 AC will meet with the ELC to identify issues and develop approach which will likely include formation of a joint work group that includes members from ELC and K-12 advisory committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulation of Child Care and Early Learning Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recommendations concerning regulation of child care, including child care that is exempt from regulation, and unlicensed child care that is subject to regulation, to ensure the safety, health, quality, and accessibility of services (HB 1152)• Are there other models we should examine, e.g., individual licensing or professional certification?• Are there strategies for extending regulation to part-day preschools that would avoid duplicative and contradictory requirements?• How do we ensure connections between the regulation and QRIS work and effort to support family, friend and neighbor caregivers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional TAC will be created to develop an approach to studying regulation. Charley Bingaman has agreed to co-chair the group. Need co-chair and staff